

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 11-27 remain pending herein. Claims 14, 16 and 19-27 have been withdrawn from consideration by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The Applicants plan to appeal the Final Rejection dated March 18, 2004.

The above amendment is made to simplify the appeal by eliminating an issue, namely, the objection to the disclosure on the basis that the current status of the parent application should be included. Accordingly, it is submitted that entry of the above amendment would be proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and such entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendment to the disclosure set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw the objection to the disclosure.

Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer relative to U.S. Patent No. 6,368,750. The Terminal Disclaimer is submitted in order to simplify the appeal by eliminating an obviousness-type double patenting rejection over claims 1-3, 5 and 7-8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,368,750 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,645. Accordingly, entry of the Terminal Disclaimer is respectfully requested.

In view of the submission of the Terminal Disclaimer, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 under obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,368,750 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,071,645.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

May 25, 2004

Date



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